(a) whether it is a fact that youth have been misusing certain psychotropic pharmaceuticals in the recent times;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to prevent such abuse of pharmaceuticals; and

(c) which agency is engaged in surveillance of these incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Abuse of certain pharmaceuticals has been noticed in various sections of the society including youth.

(b) The government have taken the following steps to prevent abuse of pharmaceuticals:-

(i) Interaction with the Pharma manufacturers, distributors and retailers to sensitise them about the problem.

(ii) Investigations into diversion of pharmaceuticals capable of being abused.

(iii) Arrest and prosecution of people involed in diversion and illicit distribution of such pharmaceuticals;

(iv) Sensitization of various law enforcement agencies involved in drug law enforcement about the misuse of pharmaceuticals;

(v) Coordination with Drug Controller General of India.

(c) Powers to control manufacture, sale and distribution of psychotropic pharmaceuticals is vested in the Drug Controller General of India under the Ministry of Health. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment undertakes surveys to assess drug abuse in the country. Narcotics Control Bureau and various Central and State agencies also maintain surveillance to prevent the misuse of psychotropic pharmaceuticals.

Raising of new froce ATPSF

4406. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the two oil majors and other Public Sector Undertakings operating in Assam have offered to raise funds for a new security force in

Assam to replace the Assam Tea Plantations Security Forces (ATPSF);

(b) if so, in what circumstances and whether the ATPSF is expected to cover and address some additional concerns or areas of operation; and whether the ATPSF suffers from lack of funds; and

(c) what decision has been taken to create the new security force, indicating the constitution and functions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The Government has not such proposal.

(b) and (c) In view of the (a) above, do not arise.

Muslims' Population

4407. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any enquiry regarding alleged outstanding growth among Muslims in the census of 2001;

(b) if so, what is the outcome thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is a deliberate attempt to show faster growth of Muslim population in the country; and

(d) who is responsible for it, and what action has been taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. An internal inquiry has been made. A mistake had been committed in the Report on Religion data released on 6th September, 2004. It was not mentioned in the Brief Analysis that the growth rates were based on unadjusted figures. This was, however, not deliberate. Appropriate warning has been issued to the concerned.

Privatisation of some public/semi-public Institutes/services

†4408. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.